

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating a self-service checkout terminal ~~located in a checkout area~~ of a retail store, comprising the steps of:

~~generating a payment tendered control signal when a user of said self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase;~~

recording a number of merchandise items for purchase by a user by said self-service checkout terminal;

detecting movement if of said user exits as said user walks through a number of boundaries of an adjacent said checkout floor area of said self-service checkout terminal ~~retail store~~ and generating a walk-away control signal in response thereto; and

determining if a payment-tendered control signal was received by the self-service checkout terminal indicative of said user having tendered payment for said merchandise items while within the adjacent checkout floor area; and

generating a personnel-request control signal in response to if said walk-away control signal if said payment-tendered control signal was not received by the self-service checkout terminal ~~is generated prior to generation of said payment tendered control signal.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-request control signal.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of detecting movement of ~~if~~ said user ~~exits said checkout area of said retail store~~ includes the step of detecting movement of said user ~~on~~ by a movement detection floor mat in said adjacent checkout floor area and generating said walk-away control signal if said movement of said user is indicative of an attempt by said user to ~~exit~~ walk away from said adjacent checkout floor area of said retail store.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting step includes ~~the step of~~ detecting if said user ~~exits~~ walks away from said adjacent checkout floor area of said retail store so as to return to a shopping area of said retail store different from the adjacent checkout floor area and generating a return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto, and wherein the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises the steps of:

detecting if said user ~~returns~~ walks back to said adjacent checkout floor area of said retail store from said shopping area of said retail store and generating a return-

to-terminal control signal in response thereto; and

operating said self-service checkout terminal so as to allow said user to continue a retail transaction in response to generation of said return-to-terminal control signal.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of detecting if said user ~~exits~~ walks away from said adjacent checkout floor area of said retail store so as to return to said shopping area of said retail store includes ~~the step of~~ detecting movement of said user ~~on~~ by a movement detection floor mat in a direction toward said shopping area and generating said return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting step includes ~~the step of~~ detecting if said user ~~exits~~ walks away from said adjacent checkout floor area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store and generating an exiting-store control signal in response thereto, and wherein the method further comprising comprises the steps of:

generating a personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response to generation of said exiting-store control signal; and

operating a summoning device so as to summon retail

personnel in response to generation of said personnel-needed-immediately control signal.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein, said step of detecting if said user ~~exits~~ walks away from said adjacent checkout floor area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store includes ~~the step of~~ detecting movement of said user ~~on~~ by a movement detection floor mat in a direction indicative of an attempt by said user to exit said retail store and generating said personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response thereto.

8. (Original) A method of operating a self-service checkout terminal located in a checkout area of a retail store, comprising the steps of:

generating a payment-tendered control signal when a user of said self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase;

detecting movement of said user on a movement detection floor mat and generating a walk-away control signal if said movement of said user is indicative of an attempt by said user to exit said checkout area of said retail store; and

generating a personnel-request control signal if said walk-away control signal is generated prior to generation of said payment-tendered control signal.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-request control signal.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said detecting step includes the step of detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat so as to determine if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to return to a shopping area of said retail store and generating a return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto, further comprising the steps of:

detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat so as to determine if said user returns to said checkout area of said retail store from said shopping area of said retail store and generating a return-to-terminal control signal in response thereto; and

operating said self-service checkout terminal so as to allow said user to continue a retail transaction in response to generation of said return-to-terminal control signal.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said step of detecting movement of said user on said movement

detection floor mat so as to determine if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to return to said shopping area of said retail store includes the step of detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat in a direction toward said shopping area and generating said return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said detecting step includes the step of detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat so as to determine if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store and generating an exiting-store control signal in response thereto, further comprising the steps of:

generating a personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response to generation of said exiting-store control signal; and

operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-needed-immediately control signal.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein, said step of detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat so as to determine if said user exits

said checkout area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store includes the step of detecting movement of said user on said movement detection floor mat in a direction indicative of an attempt by said user to exit said retail store and generating said personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response thereto.

14. (Currently amended) A self-service checkout terminal, comprising:

a movement detecting device for detecting movement of a user ~~thereon~~ as said user walks through a number of boundaries of a checkout floor area;

a processing unit electrically coupled to said movement detecting device; and

a memory device electrically coupled to said processing unit, wherein said memory device has stored therein a plurality of instructions which, when executed by said processing unit, causes said processing unit to:

(a) record a number of merchandise items for purchase by said user ~~generate a payment tendered control signal when said user of said self service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase,~~

(b) detect movement if of said user exits as said user walks through said boundaries of said checkout floor area of said retail store with said movement detecting device and

generate a walk-away control signal in response thereto, ~~and~~

(c) determine if a payment-tendered control signal was received indicative of said user having tendered payment for said merchandise items while within the checkout floor area;
and

~~(e)~~ (d) generate a personnel-request control signal in response to if said walk-away control signal if said payment-tendered control signal was not received is generated prior to generation of said payment-tendered control signal.

15. (Original) The retail terminal of claim 14, further comprising a summoning device for summoning retail personnel, wherein said plurality of instructions, when executed by said processing unit, further causes said processing unit to operate said summoning device so as to summon said retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-request control signal.

16. (Currently amended) The retail terminal of claim 14, wherein:

said movement detecting device includes a movement detection floor mat within said checkout floor area, and

said plurality of instructions, when executed by said processing unit, further causes said processing unit to

detect movement of said user within said checkout floor area
~~on~~ with said movement detection floor mat and generate said
walk-away control signal in response thereto.

17. (Currently amended) The retail terminal of claim
16, wherein said plurality of instructions, when executed by
said processing unit, further causes said processing unit
to:

(a) detect if said user ~~exits~~ walks away from said
checkout floor area of said retail store so as to return to
a shopping area of said retail store different from said
checkout floor area with said movement detection floor mat
and generate a return-to-shopping control signal in response
thereto,

(b) detect if said user ~~returns~~ walks back to said
checkout floor area of said retail store from said shopping
area of said retail store with said movement detection floor
mat and generate a return-to-terminal control signal in
response thereto, and

(c) operate said self-service checkout terminal so as
to allow said user to continue a retail transaction in
response to generation of said return-to-terminal control
signal.

18. (Currently amended) The retail terminal of claim

16, further comprising a summoning device for summoning retail personnel, wherein said plurality of instructions, when executed by said processing unit, further causes said processing unit to:

(a) detect if said user ~~exits~~ walks away from said checkout floor area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store with said movement detection floor mat and generate an exiting-store control signal in response thereto,

(b) generate a personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response to generation of said exiting-store control signal, and

(c) operate said summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-needed-immediately control signal.

19. (New) A method of operating a self-service checkout terminal located in a checkout area of a retail store, comprising the steps of:

generating a payment-tendered control signal when a user of said self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase;

detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store and generating a walk-away control signal in response thereto, including detecting movement of said user

on a movement detection floor mat and generating said walk-away control signal if said movement of said user is indicative of an attempt by said user to exit said checkout area of said retail store; and

generating a personnel-request control signal if said walk-away control signal is generated prior to generation of said payment-tendered control signal.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-request control signal.

21. (New) A method of operating a self-service checkout terminal located in a checkout area of a retail store, comprising the steps of:

generating a payment-tendered control signal when a user of said self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase;

detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store and generating a walk-away control signal in response thereto;

detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to return to a shopping area of said

retail store by detecting movement of said user on a movement detection floor mat in a direction toward said shopping area, and generating a return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto;

detecting if said user returns to said checkout area of said retail store from said shopping area of said retail store and generating a return-to-terminal control signal in response thereto;

operating said self-service checkout terminal so as to allow said user to continue a retail transaction in response to generation of said return-to-terminal control signal; and

generating a personnel-request control signal if said walk-away control signal is generated prior to generation of said payment-tendered control signal and if said user does not exit said checkout area of said retail store so as to return to a shopping area of said retail store.

22. (New) A method of operating a self-service checkout terminal located in a checkout area of a retail store, comprising the steps of:

generating a payment-tendered control signal when a user of said self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase;

detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store and generating a walk-away control signal in

response thereto;

generating a personnel-request control signal if said walk-away control signal is generated prior to generation of said payment-tendered control signal;

detecting if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store by detecting movement of said user on a movement detection floor mat in a direction indicative of an attempt by said user to exit said retail store, and generating an exiting-store control signal in response thereto;

generating a personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response to generation of said exiting-store control signal; and

operating a summoning device so as to summon retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-needed-immediately control signal.

23. (New) A self-service checkout terminal, comprising:

a movement detecting device for detecting movement of a user thereon, including a movement detection floor mat;

a processing unit electrically coupled to said movement detecting device; and

a memory device electrically coupled to said processing unit, wherein said memory device has stored therein a

plurality of instructions which, when executed by said processing unit, causes said processing unit to:

(a) generate a payment-tendered control signal when said user of said self-service checkout terminal tenders payment for a number of items for purchase,

(b) detect if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store with said movement detection floor mat and generate a walk-away control signal in response thereto, and

(c) generate a personnel-request control signal if said walk-away control signal is generated prior to generation of said payment-tendered control signal.

24. (New) The retail terminal of claim 23, further comprising a summoning device for summoning retail personnel, wherein said plurality of instructions, when executed by said processing unit, further causes said processing unit to operate said summoning device so as to summon said retail personnel in response to generation of said personnel-request control signal.

25. (New) The retail terminal of claim 23, wherein said plurality of instructions, when executed by said processing unit, further causes said processing unit to:

(a) detect if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to return to a shopping area of said

retail store with said movement detection floor mat and generate a return-to-shopping control signal in response thereto,

(b) detect if said user returns to said checkout area of said retail store from said shopping area of said retail store with said movement detection floor mat and generate a return-to-terminal control signal in response thereto, and

(c) operate said self-service checkout terminal so as to allow said user to continue a retail transaction in response to generation of said return-to-terminal control signal.

26. (New) The retail terminal of claim 23, further comprising a summoning device for summoning retail personnel, wherein said plurality of instructions, when executed by said processing unit, further causes said processing unit to:

(a) detect if said user exits said checkout area of said retail store so as to exit said retail store with said movement detection floor mat and generate an exiting-store control signal in response thereto,

(b) generate a personnel-needed-immediately control signal in response to generation of said exiting-store control signal, and

(c) operate said summoning device so as to summon

retail personnel in response to generation of said
personnel-needed-immediately control signal.